

IEM NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD:

Our sincere greetings from the School of Industrial Engineering and Management here at Oklahoma State University! We have successfully wrapped up our Fall 2025 semester, and we continue to celebrate major accomplishments. Our faculty, staff, students and alumni have been recognized this fall for excellence through numerous awards and recognition at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Highlighting just a few of these accomplishments:

In November, Dr. Sunderesh Heragu was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. This is a highly prestigious recognition for Dr. Heragu's academic accomplishments in higher education here in IEM at Oklahoma State University.

It was recently announced that our senior design team consisting of Austin McDaniels, Aaron McKistry, Rachel Hutchenson and Ethan O'Connor won first place in the 2024-2025 Material Handling Capstone Design Competition. Dr. Manju Kamath and Dr. Jennifer Glenn served as the faculty advisor and Senior Design class instructor, respectively. A special thanks to Mr. Keith Cannon (IEM-BS, 1993; MS, 1995) with TDW who served as a mentor and sponsor for the project.

The OSU Seniors of Significance Award recognizes students who truly exemplify and embody the Cowboy Code, and two IEM students were among 51 who were

recognized this year. Adam Hartman and Erin Lowe represent the top one percent of seniors here at OSU! In the Fall 2025 Midwest Region American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) meeting, Dr. Glenn received the ASEE Midwest Region Outstanding Teaching Award. This award recognizes Dr. Glenn for her outstanding performance in the classroom educating students across the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology.

Lastly, the School of IEM is teaming up with The Cowboy Academy (TCA) and have started the planning process of our IEM Centennial Celebration. Be watching for correspondence from IEM/TCA asking our alumni to share their thoughts and ideas for preferred event activities. The Centennial Celebration will be held in the Fall of 2026.

GO POOKES!

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The annual TCA & IAB meeting took place in September, welcoming new TCA inductees

Those inducted were: Mario Cornejo, Gary Johnston, Siby Thomas and Nikki Watters.



Dr. Jennifer Glenn received the ASEE Outstanding Teaching Award

In recognition of Glenn's outstanding efforts to educate students in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, she has been honored with the 2025 ASEE Midwest Region's Outstanding Teaching Award. For more than 130 years, the American Society for Engineering Education has been dedicated to ensuring students receive the highest level of technical knowledge and skill in the engineering field as possible.

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Five IEM students received an MHEFI Scholarship:

ADAM HARTMAN

Automation Controls Electrification (ACE) Honor Scholarship
\$3,000

ELANOR MEHEN

Brian McNamara Honor Scholarship sponsored by Southworth International Group
\$1,500

LUKE DIENER

Expert Crane Honor Scholarship
\$2,250

JONATHAN BLATT

Rack Manufacturers Institute Honor Scholarship, sponsored by ASG Services
\$5,000

DAYTON MCCALL

The Robotics Group Honor Scholarship
\$4,400

Material Handling Capstone Design Competition

IEM Spring Senior Design Team members Austin McDaniel, Aaron McKinstry, Rachel Hutcherson and Ethan O'Connor placed 1st in the 2024-2025 Material Handling Capstone Design Competition, organized by the Material Handling Industry (MHI) & the College on Material Handling Education (CICMHE) .

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IEM welcomed a new faculty member in August, Dr. Wenmeng Tian

Her areas of interest include:

- Machine Learning
- Statistical Process Monitoring
- Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing & Analytics
- Additive Manufacturing
- Cyber-Physical Security

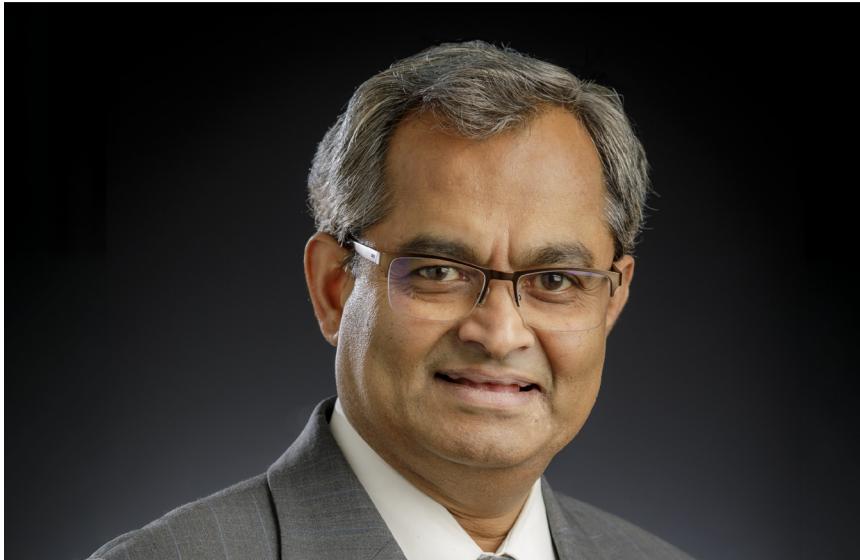
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Seniors of Significance

Among the 51 seniors recognized across campus, two were from IEM: Adam Hartman and Erin Lowe.

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Dr. Sunderesh Heragu

Dr. Sunderesh Heragu, regents professor in IEM, began his term as President of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers in April. As the chief executive officer, he provides leadership and gives overall directions to all IISE activities and operations. He presides the Board of Trustees meetings and the IISE Annual Meeting.

Heragu was inducted into the **2025 Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society Hall of Fame** to recognize how his achievements and leadership in scholarship, teaching, research, administration, staff support, outreach and public service have brought honor and distinction to higher education in the state of Oklahoma.

Heragu also received the **Lilian Gilbreth Award (2024-2025)**, awarded in recognition and appreciation of outstanding achievements, contributions to industrial engineering education and service to the industrial engineering and operations management profession.



Identifying most lethal cliques in disease comorbidity graphs

Dr. Baski Balasundaram's Ph.D. student **Parisa Vaghfi Mohebbi** published a paper which was selected by the journal editor-in-chief to highlight in the ISE magazine in August.

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Dr. Askash Deep

Dr. Akash Deep, assistant professor in IEM, received an National Science Foundation Award Search grant that focuses on developing privacy-preserving collaborative design methods for additive biofabrication to advance U.S. biomanufacturing goals.

Deep was also recognized by SME as a **30 under 30 honoree**. Founded in 1932, SME is a leading nonprofit dedicated to advancing manufacturing through workforce development, innovation and collaboration between academia and industry. Its 30 Under 30 program highlights young professionals and researchers making exceptional contributions to manufacturing technology, sustainability and education.

[NSF AWARD SEARCH](#)

[30 Under 30](#)



Dr. Sri Ramesh

Dr. Sri Ramesh, assistant professor in IEM, has been awarded \$464,606 in funding from the National Science Foundation, Division of Engineering Education and Centers (ENG/EEC), for the proposal “REU Site: Additive Manufacturing and Cybersecurity.” Dr. Ranji Vaidyanathan (MSE) is the Co-PI. The grant period of performance is August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2028.

The program will be a 10-week summer REU Site hosted at OSU, designed to prepare students for research careers at the intersection of advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity. Each summer (from 2026 to 2028), 10 students from across the U.S. will be selected to work with OSU faculty on interdisciplinary projects addressing emerging challenges in manufacturing and cybersecurity, while also participating in professional development workshops to gain skills essential for future STEM careers.

Ramesh also received a \$30,000 award from the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium for his project titled “Additive Manufacturing of Frequency Selective Surfaces for NASA Moon to Mars Communications.” In collaboration with the printed electronics team at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Ramesh’s team aims to develop an additive manufacturing workflow to fabricate high-performance frequency-selective surfaces on both planar and conformal substrates. The project seeks to achieve significant weight and volume reductions while maintaining or exceeding the performance of existing heritage hardware for space communication systems.

Ramesh’s Ph.D. student, **Md Shihab Shakur**, has recently had two research papers accepted for publication. One paper was developed in collaboration with researchers at Arizona State University, and the other with Dr. Deep from IEM.

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► **Adversarial Domain Adaptation for Improved Part-to-Part Generalization of Deep Learning Segmentation Models in Aerosol Jet Printing**

► **Morphology prediction in aerosol jet printing using conditional generative adversarial networks**

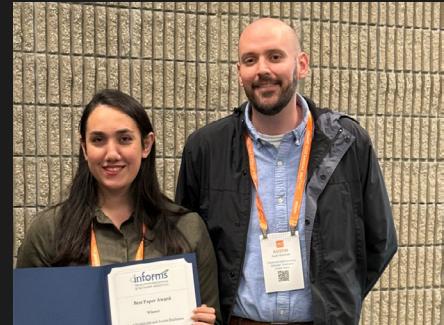


Dr. Austin Buchanan

Dr. Austin Buchanan, associate professor in IEM, had two Ph.D. students graduate over the summer: **Soraya Ezazipour** and **Maral Shahmizad**. Maral got a job as a decision scientist for Delta Air Lines at their headquarters in Atlanta.

Buchanan's paper "Political districting to minimize county splits," published in *Operations Research* this year, was selected as one of three finalists for the Best Paper Award from the INFORMS Section on Telecommunications and Network Analytics. The winner will be announced at the INFORMS Annual Meeting next month.

Buchanan also recently received a new \$600,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) for a project called "Balanced Graph Partitioning under Uncertainty." He is the PI, and his coPI is Professor Jim Luedtke at UW-Madison. This is a three-year grant (Sept 2025-Sept 2028).



INFORMS Annual Meeting

The month of October also hosted the INFORMS Annual Meeting, this year held in Atlanta, with four faculty members attending along with thirteen students.

Dr. Buchanan and his former Ph.D. student, **Maral Shahmizad** won the Best Paper Award from the INFORMS Section on Telecommunications and Network Analytics, for their paper titled: *Political Districting to Minimize Country Splits*.

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Dr. Pratima Saravanan

Dr. Pratima Saravanan and her Ph.D. student, **Nurul Ahad Choudhury**, published a study titled "Mapping Critical Decisions and Cues in Firefighting: A Structured Analysis Using the Critical Decision Method", exploring the real-world decision making processes of firefighters during high-risk incidents

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Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Conference

Three faculty members and nine students attended the HFES Annual Conference in Chicago. Two of Dr. Katie Jurewicz's Ph.D. students each received awards: **Matt Nare** (bottom left) won the HFES Student Member with Honors Award, which is a society-wide award. **Ainsley Kyle** (bottom right) won a student travel award in the aerospace technical group.

